NUMB. CLVIII.

The GUARDIAN.

Gnoſſius hæc Rhadamanthus habet duriſſima regna:
Caſtigatque, auditque dolos; ſubigitque fateri,
Quæ quis apud ſuperos, furto lætatus inani,
Diſtulit in ſeram commiſſa piacula mortem. Virg.

Friday, September 11, 1713.

I Was Yeſterday purſuing the Hint which I mentioned in my laſt Paper, and comparing together the Induſtry of Man with that of other Creatures, in which I could not but obſerve, that notwithſtanding we are obliged by Duty to keep our ſelves in conſtant Employ, after the ſame Manner as inferior Animals are prompted to it by Inſtinct, we fall very ſhort of them in this Particular. We are here the more inexcuſable, becauſe there is a greater variety of Buſineſs to which we may apply our ſelves. Reaſon opens to us a large Field of Affairs, which other Creatures are not capable of. Beaſts of Prey, and I believe of all other kinds, in their Natural State of Being, divide their time between Action and Reſt. They are always at work or aſleep. In ſhort, their waking Hours are wholly taken up in ſeeking after their Food, or in conſuming it. The Human Species only, to the great Reproach of our Natures, are filled with Complaints, that *the day hangs heavy on 'em*, that *they do not know what to do with themſelves*, that *they are at a loſs how to paſs away their Time*, with many of the like ſhameful Murmurs, which we often find in the Mouths of thoſe who are ſtiled Reaſonable Beings. How monſtrous are ſuch Expreſſions among Creatures, who have the Labours of the Mind, as well as thoſe of the Body, to furniſh them with proper Employments; who beſides the Buſineſs of their proper Callings and Profeſſions, can apply themſelves to the Duties of Religion, to Meditation, to the Reading of uſeful Books, to Diſcourſe; in a word, who may exerciſe themſelves in the unbounded P[illegible] Knowledge and Virtue, and every Hour of their Lives make themſelves wiſer or better than they were before.

After having been taken up for ſome time in this courſe of Thought, I diverted my ſelf with a Book, according to my uſual Cuſtom, in order to unbend my Mind before I went to ſleep. The Book I made uſe of on this occaſion was *Lucian*, where I amuſed my Thoughts for about an Hour among the Dialogues of the Dead, which in all probability produced the following Dream.

I was conveyed, methought, into the Entrance of the Infernal Regions, where I ſaw *Rhadamanthus*, one of the Judges of the Dead, ſeated in his Tribunal. On his Left Hand ſtood the Keeper of *Erebus*, on his Right the Keeper of *Elyſium*. I was told he ſat upon Women that Day, there being ſeveral of the Sex lately arrived, who had not yet their Manſions aſſigned them. I was ſurprized to hear him ask every one of them the ſame Queſtion, namely, *what they had been doing?* Upon this Queſtion being propoſed to the whole Aſſembly, they ſtared one upon another, as not knowing what to Anſwer. He then Interrogated each of them ſeparately. Madam, ſays he, to the firſt of them, you have been upon the Earth about Fifty Years: What have you been doing there all this while? Doing, ſays ſhe, really I don't know what I have been doing: I deſire I may have time given me to recollect. After about half an Hours pauſe ſhe told him, that ſhe had been playing at Crimp; upon which *Rhadamanthus* beckoned to the Keeper on his Left Hand, to take her into Cuſtody. And you, Madam, ſays the Judge, that look with ſuch a ſoft and languiſhing Air; I think you ſet out for this Place in your Nine and twentieth Year, what have you been doing all this while? I had a great deal of Buſineſs on my Hands, ſays ſhe, being taken up the firſt Twelve Years of my Life, in dreſſing a Jointed Baby, and all the remaining part of it in reading Plays and Romances. Very well, ſays he, you have employed your Time to good purpoſe. Away with [illegible] a plain Country Woman: Well Miſtreſs, ſays *Rhadamanthus*, and what have you been doing? An't pleaſe your Worſhip, ſays ſhe, I did not live quite Forty Years; and in that time brought my Husband ſeven Daughters, made him nine thouſand Cheeſes, and left my eldeſt Girl with him, to look after his Houſe in my Abſence, and who I may venture to ſay is as pretty a Houſe-wife as any in the Country. *Rhadamanthus* ſmiled at the Simplicity of the good Woman, and order'd the Keeper of *Elyſium* to take her into his Care. And you, fair Lady,

(Price Two Pence.)